

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—The financial position of the Chester and Holyhead line is anything, it is said, but cheering. More than double the present traffic, it seems, will not pay the interest to the preference holders, leaving out of question the holders of the original capital of 2,100,000*l*.

—The contract for constructing the bridge at Chepstow, for the South Wales line, has been taken by Messrs. Smith and Willey, of Liverpool, engineers. The whole is to be of wrought-iron, the largest span being about 300 feet, resting on cast-iron piers or pillars, sunk down to the rock. —The Rhymney Iron Works have contracted, it is said, with the Royston and Hitchin Railway Company to deliver in London 5,000 tons of rails at 18*s*. 6*d*. per ton. —The works on the Fenchurch and Norwich line are progressing. The viaduct over the Norfolk line is completed; the bridge near the Victoria-gardens is nearly completed; and the earthworks are proceeding with. —The Edinburgh and Glasgow Company, according to the *Reformer's* *Graphic*, have opened up the tunnel at their Glasgow station through a space of 90 feet between Cathedral and Holmhead-streets, thus admitting light and air into that portion lying near the station. —The London and North-Western Company has permitted the issue of assurance tickets at the principal stations on its line. In the event either of loss of life, or personal injury, a first-class passenger, by a payment of threepence, will insure 1,000*l*.; a second-class, by a payment of twopence, 500*l*.; and a third-class, by a payment of one penny, 200*l*. The insurance is irrespective of distance. —In consequence of the increase of business in transmitting intelligence by electric telegraph, says the *Liverpool Albion*, and the great complaints, by the city merchants and the press, on the enormous charges made by the company in comparison with the United States, it is intended to make a great alteration in the scale, so as to render this means of communication more available to all parties. We are glad to hear of it, for the sake of the Company itself as well as the public. —The *Monitor* announces that the President of the French Republic has authorised Mr. Jacob Brett to establish on the coast of France, between Calais and Boulogne, a submarine telegraph, to cross the Channel, and communicate with the English coast at Dover. The treaty guarantees certain advantages to the French Government, and leaves all the expense to the contractor, to whom it secures a privilege of ten years, should the experiment succeed. The works are to be terminated on 1st September, 1850, at latest.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The fourth annual meeting of the Sussex Archaeological Society was held last week, at Arundel. In the absence of the Duke of Norfolk, the chair was taken by the Earl of Arundel and Surrey. At twelve o'clock the members assembled at the Town Hall, where a great number of interesting objects in archaeology were exhibited. Some pleasant papers were read, and the members viewed the patchy, degraded castle, and ruinous monuments in the church. The disfigurements in the castle, by Dailaway, afford subjects for reprobation.

BRISTOL-BRIDGE COMPETITION.—The Improvement Committee of the Town Council has awarded a premium of 25*l*. for a design for widening Bristol-bridge, by the corporation architects, Messrs. Pope and Co. It consists, we hear, of two Tuscan columns built upon each of the cutwaters and abutments of the bridge, bearing on their capitals strong iron girders, upon which will be placed iron cantilevers to carry the flagstones of the footway, intended to be 8 feet wide, and surmounted with a balustrade. Eighteen drawings and one model were sent in.

BRAIN BUILDERS.—A list of tenders for schools, at Harlow, in Essex; Mr. G. E. Pritchett, architect. The quantities supplied!

If with English ragstone in random courses.

Asbby.....	£2,500	£2,740
Harris.....	2,250	2,285
Smith.....	2,100	2,242
Prior.....	2,157	2,337
Carter and Ellis..	2,063	2,165
Pock.....	2,010	2,147
Young.....	1,970	2,110
Smith (accepted)..	1,660	1,802

RAILWAY COMPENSATION CASES.—Several claims on the London and North-Western Company were recently brought before special juries at Birmingham. In the first, 9,000*l*. to 10,000*l*., it was understood, were claimed by Messrs. Waddell and Isod, for the Hen and Chickens Hotel, through part of the stables only of which the Company had made their way. Informality of notices on the Company's part were urged, and the case was cast aside. The powers of the Company to take compulsory possession of property was to expire on the following day. —The next case was Captain Inge's claim of 1,581*l*. 15*s*. for a property leased by his ancestors in 1773, for 99 years. Part of the claim consisted of 527*l*. 5*s*., or 50 per cent. for compulsory sale, on 1,025*l*., the product of 4 per cent. on 104 years' purchase of the rents, amounting to 100*l*. The calculation was made according to Inman's tables, which the Company's counsel ridiculed as "a system of thumb-tiggery to prove anything required." The valuations on the defendants' part ranged between 550*l*. and 560*l*. The jury returned a verdict for 1,147*l*. 10*s*. The company had offered 715*l*., and the claimant had offered to accept 1,340*l*. —The next was a demand of 5,300*l*., by Mr. Bird, a druggist, for compulsory removal, fixtures, and loss of lease and local business. His rent was 70*l*., but elsewhere, it was alleged, would be 200*l*. For loss of fixtures 400*l*. were claimed; loss of income at 800*l*. a-year for three years, 2,400*l*.,—forced sale 50 per cent.,—or 3,600*l*. on whole for loss of trade; loss on 700*l*. worth of stock 80 per cent., or 550*l*. The profit on drugs was represented to be sometimes 400 per cent. on prime cost. An accountant stated in evidence that, in 1848, when Mr. Bird's profits were stated to be 750*l*., his income-tax amounted only to 13*l*. 6*s*. 3*d*., in place of 21*l*. 17*s*. 3*d*., but that the return was fixed by the Government assessor, and not by the claimant. An agreement for lease, duly stamped, was put in. The company's counsel, however, explained that Mr. Bird did not possess a lease, that the company had themselves purchased the freehold without any such lease, and that the freeholder had merely agreed to give Mr. Bird a lease if he applied for it at the end of the first year of his tenancy. In summing up the assessor stated his opinion that Mr. Bird was merely a tenant for a year. The jury, after much difference, returned a verdict of 995*l*. and 1*s*. damages. The Company had offered 1,250*l*.

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—This society will hold its third annual meeting in Cardiff, on Monday, the 27th inst., and four following days. The president-elect for the year is the Viscount Adare. Cardiff is within reach of many antiquities of interest: the great cromlech, near St. Nicholas; tumuli, beacons, and camps; the Roman stations of Cardiff and Caerleon, and museum of Roman antiquities at the latter place; a large number of mediæval castles of the first class—Caerphilly, Cardiff, St. Donat's, &c.; Llandaff Cathedral, Ewenny Priory, Margam Abbey, and many interesting smaller churches; there are also very early inscriptions at Lantwit, Margam, &c.

INCREASE OF TRADE.—From a summary of exports during the month ending 5th July, in the *Birmingham Journal*, it appears that there was an increase on glass manufactures of 1,538*l*. on 20,169*l*.,—the value exported during the like period of last year; that on hardware and cutlery there was an increase of 15,002*l*. on 165,873*l*.; on painters' colours an increase of 2,983*l*. on 12,962*l*.; on iron and steel, an increase of 40,295*l*. on 464,294*l*.; on copper and brass, an increase of 51,533*l*. on 101,986*l*.; and on lead an increase of 13,423*l*. on 11,452*l*. On machinery, however, there was a decrease of 8,953*l*. on 93,871*l*. The following table shows a progressive demand for articles peculiar to the Birmingham district. Even machinery here appears to be progressing, month by month:—

	April.	May.	June.	July.
Glass.....	433,436	430,469	419,674	431,707
Hardware and cutlery	199,773	143,466	147,179	108,573
Machinery.....	37,683	41,399	48,130	44,916
Iron and steel.....	454,818	436,615	436,569	444,389
Copper and brass	179,480	150,484	169,818	163,819
Tin (wrought and unwrought).....	91,130	66,184	67,079	77,394
	944,900	831,077	825,461	828,263

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 25th inst., for the erection of a party-wall between the ground of the Paddington Workhouse and that of the Lock Hospital; by 23rd, for the erection and completion of certain buildings at the back of, and adjacent to, the workhouse of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch; by 27th, for building 1,050 feet of brick sewer, and other works connected therewith, along the Willow Walk, Bermondsey; by 30th, for the reconstruction of the drainage and water supply, with various other works, at the Union Workhouse, Cuckfield; by 27th, for works required in the formation of roads at West Croydon station, and the extension of the Bricklayers' Arms goods depot, of the London and Brighton Railway; by 8th Sept., for extensive repairs, &c., to the parish church of Aylesbury; by 28th inst., for the erection of Bracknell District Church; by 27th, for the whole, or any portion of the works required to be done in the erection of a church in All Saints' district, Leeds; by a date not specified, for any portion of the works to be done in the erection of a church at Hlepton-hall, Halifax; by a date not specified, for the works to be executed in the erection of St. Matthew's National School and schoolmaster's house, Little London, Leeds (drawings to be seen till 21st inst.); by 21st, for the erection of a national school for 225 children, with mistress's house attached, and other buildings; by 10th September, for the construction of three reservoirs, and the masonry of a bridge for the Manchester Corporation Waterworks; by 24th September, for works to be executed in new pauper lunatic asylum, to be erected at Powick, Worcester (plans, &c. to be seen on and after 4th Sept., to place of from 6th inst.); and by 28th inst., for making a road, and for pavement and curb-stone, at Southampton Marsh.

NEW GAS GENERATOR.—A patent self-acting gas apparatus has been exhibited at Hull, according to the *Packet*, by English's Patent Camphine Company. The gas which it generates (from camphine or mineral oil) is said to produce a light far purer and more brilliant than that of coal-gas, and without the least noxious vapour. The apparatus consists of a furnace of cast-iron, divided into two compartments, in one of which the retort is set, the other being filled with fuel, descending into the furnace, exactly as the combustion proceeds. In the lower compartment is fixed a double retort, having at one end, outside the furnace, a short vertical pipe. At a little distance is the gasometer, and above, a vessel containing the fluid, and connected with the retort by a small tube. The fluid flows through the upper along the lower compartment of the retort, being decomposed in its passage; it then passes through a syphon-box for the receipt of any undecomposed fluid; thence through a washer to the gas holder. Should the gas be generated too rapidly for the burners which are lit, the rising of the gas holder immediately raises a lever and cuts off a portion of the supply of fluid. The apparatus can be adapted to any number of lights for public buildings, churches, lighthouses, gentlemen's houses, road-side railway stations, hotels, and other places where coal gas cannot be obtained. It is also said to cook with cleanliness and nicety.

ART-UNION OF LONDON EXHIBITION.—The works of art purchased by the prizeholders are now being exhibited in the Suffolk-street Gallery, and will remain on view for three weeks longer. Subscribers and their friends will find it wise to pay their visits at once, while there is plenty of room, and not wait till nearly the close, by which course the rooms become most inconveniently crowded.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND ARCHITECTURE.—By the new charter granted to the University of London, the council may institute examinations for certificates of proficiency on any subject they may think fit, connected with the arts or sciences, such as architecture and civil engineering. This was spoken of at the closing meeting of the Institute as matter for congratulation. *Cela dépend*, as the French say.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL.—The days of the old tower of the cathedral church are said to be numbered. It has long been in a miserable condition, and the present churchwardens having called in professional advisers, their report fully confirms the reports of former architects as to its dangerous state.